R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite that the camera device a setting unit configured to set an initialization of the optical system to drive the optical system to a predetermined state as an interrupt processing of an operating system before the operating system is started, as well as to clarify that the control unit starts the initialization of the optical system before the operating system is started when a recording mode for photographing is set and suspends the initialization of the optical system when a playback mode for display is set. See, for example, boot program 101 in Fig. 3, as well as the disclosure in Fig. 4 and, for example, the disclosure in the specification at page 11, line 21 to page 13, line 23.

In addition, independent claims 4 and 7 have been amended in a similar manner to claim 1.

Still further, the claims have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent. The informality pointed out by the Examiner has been corrected.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

With the structure of the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 4 and 7, the initialization of the optical system (such as a zoom-open operation of the zoom lens) is started before startup of the OS by the boot program (101), and the interrupt processings for carrying out the processing are carried out by using a predetermined interrupt processing routine which is set after the OS is started. Therefore, even if the OS is started while initializing the optical system (e.g., lens group 11), a zoom-open operation of the optical system, for example, can be continued without being affected by the setting of the interrupt processing routine due to the OS. Accordingly, a plurality of CPUs are not required, and the initialization of the optical system (e.g., zoom-open operation of the lens group 11), the loading and startup of the OS, and the preparations for initializations at the other portions by the main program (102) can be simultaneously carried out at a low cost. As a result, the interrupt processing for initializing the optical system is carried out before the startup of the operating system. In addition, with the structure of the claimed present invention, the initialization of the optical system can be continued without being affected by the setting of the interrupt processing routine accompanying the startup of the operating system during the initialization. Accordingly, with the structure of the present invention, a collapsible mount type lens group (11) can be

provided while enabling shortening the starting time at a low cost.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art of record does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the above described structural features or advantageous effects of the present invention recited in amended independent claims 1, 4 and 7.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 4 and 7, as well as claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8-9 respectively depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguish over the combination of JP 2001-268413 and USP 6,401,202.

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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